

Patent
Attorney Docket: 53951-039

Election/Restriction

Claims 1-5, 13, 15, 20, and 37-43 are canceled obviating the restriction issues identified in the most recent office action.

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Claim Amendments

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~hemofiltration~~ blood treatment system comprising an extracorporeal circuit for circulating blood from an individual through a blood treatment filter ~~hemofilter~~ to remove waste from a filtrate side of said blood treatment filter ~~hemofilter~~ and to return blood and replacement fluid to the individual after removal of waste, waste fluid being the only fluid contacting the waste side of said blood treatment filter ~~hemofilter~~ ~~with no fluid entering said waste side~~; the extracorporeal circuit including a replacement fluid path to convey replacement fluid from a source to the extracorporeal circuit, the replacement fluid path including a sterilizing filter to avoid contamination of the extracorporeal circuit, wherein said source contains no waste fluid.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 6 wherein the source comprises at least one container holding replacement fluid.

8. (Original) A system according to claim 6 wherein the sterilizing filter is integrally connected to the replacement fluid path.

9. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 6 wherein the replacement fluid path terminates in multiple fluid branches, each fluid branch ~~including a connector to couple a~~ being connectable to a respective source container of replacement fluid to the replacement fluid path.

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10. (Original) A system according to claim 6 wherein the replacement fluid path includes a separate replacement fluid set comprising multiple branches, each branch including a connector to couple a source container of replacement fluid to the set, and wherein the replacement fluid path includes a set connector to releasably join the replacement fluid set to the replacement fluid path.

11. (Original) A system according to claim 10 wherein the sterilizing filter is in the separate replacement set.

12. (Original) A system according to claim 10 wherein the sterilizing filter is in the replacement fluid path upstream of the set connector.

13-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method for carrying out blood treatment ~~hemofiltration~~ comprising the steps of (i) operating a blood treatment ~~hemofiltration~~ machine to convey an individual's blood through an extracorporeal fluid circuit to a blood treatment filter ~~hemofilter~~ to remove waste fluid and dispose of said waste fluid, (ii) introducing replacement fluid through a replacement fluid path connecting a source of replacement fluid to said individual, said replacement fluid path forming [that forms] a part of the extracorporeal circuit and said source of replacement fluid being isolated from said waste fluid and said waste fluid being the only fluid contacting a filtrate side of said blood treatment filter, (iii) preventing contamination of the extracorporeal circuit by locating a sterilizing filter in the replacement fluid path.

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30. (Original) A method according to claim 29 wherein steps (i), (ii), and (iii) are conducted during multiple intermittent sessions during a prescribed time period.

31. (Original) A method according to claim 30 further including the step of introducing a bacteriostatic agent into the extracorporeal circuit between the multiple intermittent sessions.

32. (Currently Amended) A method for carrying out blood treatment ~~hemofiltration~~ comprising the steps of (i) operating a blood treatment ~~hemofiltration~~ machine to convey an individual's blood through an extracorporeal fluid circuit to a blood treatment ~~filter~~ ~~hemofilter~~ to remove waste fluid and dispose of said waste fluid, (ii) introducing replacement fluid through a replacement fluid path connecting a source of replacement fluid to said individual, said replacement fluid path forming [that forms] a part of the extracorporeal circuit and said source of replacement fluid being isolated from said waste fluid and said waste fluid being the only fluid contacting a filtrate side of said blood treatment filter, (iii) preventing contamination of the extracorporeal circuit by locating a sterilizing filter in the replacement fluid path;

wherein steps (i), (ii), and (iii) are conducted during multiple intermittent sessions during a prescribed time period; subjecting the extracorporeal circuit to refrigeration between the multiple intermittent sessions.

33. (Original) A method according to claim 30 wherein the prescribed time period is between about 48 hours and about 120 hours.

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34. (Original) A method according to claim 30 wherein the prescribed time period is between about 72 hours and about 80 hours.

35. (Original) A method according to claim 29 further including the step of (iv) performing steps (i) to (iii) at least four times weekly.

36. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 29 wherein, in step (i), blood is conveyed through the blood treatment filter ~~hemofilter~~ at a blood flow rate of at least 300 ml/min.

37-43. (Canceled)